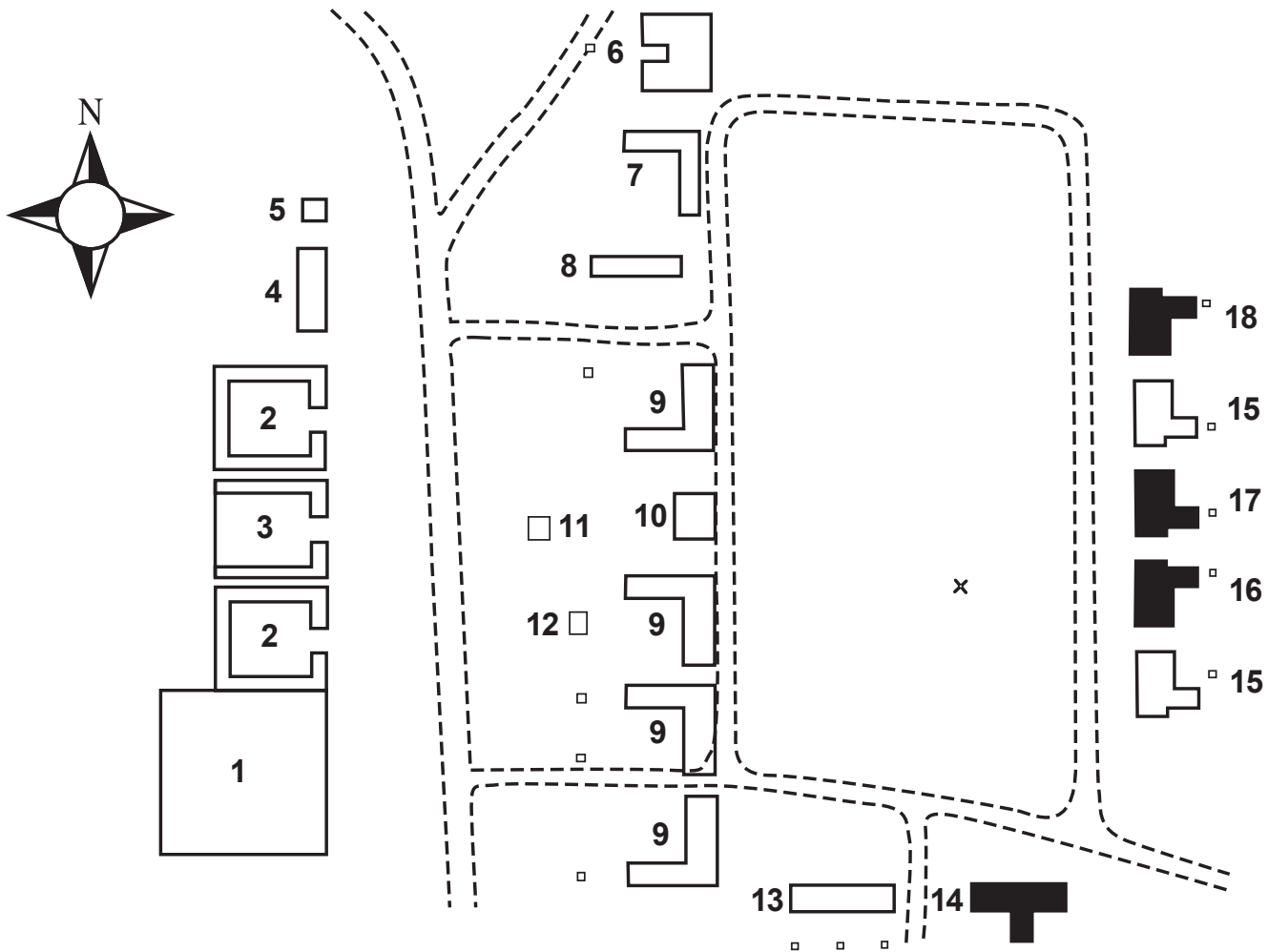


# Fort Verde State Historic Park

P.O. Box 397  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322  
(928) 567-3275



Experience three historic house museums, Commanding Officer's Quarters, Bachelor Officers' Quarters and the Doctor's Quarters on Officer's row, all furnished in the 1880s period. All of these buildings are all listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places due to their unique architectural and historic significance. The former Administration building houses the Visitor Center with interpretive exhibits, period artifacts from military life, and history on the Indian Scouts and Indian Wars era.

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hay Yard                   | 10. Guardhouse                                    |
| 2. Cavalry Corrals            | 11. Magazine                                      |
| 3. Quartermaster Corral       | 12. Bath House                                    |
| 4. Shops                      | 13. Laundry                                       |
| 5. Hospital Matron's Quarters | 14. Administration - <b>Visitor Center</b>        |
| 6. Hospital                   | 15. Officers' Quarters                            |
| 7. Quartermaster's Storehouse | 16. Commanding Officer's Quarters - <b>Museum</b> |
| 8. Commissary                 | 17. Bachelor Officers' Quarters - <b>Museum</b>   |
| 9. Company Quarters           | 18. Doctor's Quarters - <b>Museum</b>             |



# A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Officers' Row

As you walk down Officers' Row, you return to the Fort Verde of Territorial Arizona. A time when this row of houses was called "home" by the officers engaged in the Indian Wars of the 1870s - 1880s. Three of the original five buildings still stand. The numbers refer to the map on the front cover.

The **PARADE GROUND** on the left was used for drills and ceremonies. The flagpole was built like a mast to avoid the difficulty of hauling a 70-foot pine log from the high country by mule team.

## MARRIED OFFICERS' QUARTERS (#15)

This was the site of one of two Married Officer's Quarters. A second was located between the Bachelors' and Doctor's Quarters. While identical to the Commanding Officer's Quarters (#16), up to four families could live in each home. Cramped quarters were often a reality for the families of junior officers. The first home was destroyed by fire in 1881, while the other was torn down in the 1930s.

## THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S QUARTERS (#16)

The Commanding Officer was usually the senior company captain assigned to the fort. His salary of \$166 per month made it possible for his wife to furnish the home respectfully. She served as the center of fort social activities.



Commanding Officer's Quarters, after 1881.  
Photo: Sharlot Hall Museum

The Master Bedroom, on the right, also served as the bathing area for the commander's wife. Men and children bathed in the kitchen.

The Parlor on the left was used for both formal and informal entertainment. Musical activities, cards, readings, and social gatherings were some of the most common types of amusement.

Upstairs are the Children's Bedrooms. The room to the left is arranged for a teenage daughter. A problem for parents was educating their children. Primary education was usually in the home. Young ladies were sent to "finishing schools" if possible, but generally they stayed with the family until married. Young men were sent East to complete their education if the family could afford it.

The room to the right is for younger children. Toys were often homemade, but store bought toys were also available.

Beyond this room is the Striker's Room. A striker was an enlisted man that helped with household chores, cooking, and watching the children. This duty included better living quarters and an extra \$5 a month, a real supplement to the normal pay of \$13.



Lt. Smith and ladies in front of the Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1885-1888.  
Photo: AZ Historical Society

Downstairs and through the back door to the left is the Dining Room. This was used for both family meals and entertaining.

Stepping off the rear porch to the right is a typical Garden. Officers' families and enlisted men depended on gardens

to provide important dietary supplements. Army rations were of limited nutrition and food shipped out from back east was often of poor quality and taste. Fresh produce was a welcome addition to the table.

To the left of the garden is the Privy. Chamber pots, kept under the bed, served indoor needs when necessary. Indoor plumbing had been invented but was still rare.

Behind you is the Kitchen. It lacks what we would consider modern conveniences. Drinking water was stored in barrels and was brought from a spring. Without refrigeration, food was canned or dried for long-term storage. Notice the stove set in front of the fireplace. Fireplaces were gradually replaced with stoves as they became available.

## BACHELOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS (#17)

Unmarried officers lived a sparse, makeshift lifestyle because of low pay, slow promotions, frequent moves, and extended time in the field.

As you enter the building, there is

a Bedroom on each side. The room on the left shows the "pice" construction technique of casting massive adobe units in temporary wooden forms. This method was faster, simpler and less prone to water damage than the more traditional bricks. It was used only in constructing the exterior walls of the adobe buildings.



On the porch of the Bachelor Officers' Quarters, 1880s. Photo: Library of Congress

Going out the back door, to the right is the Parlor. This would have been used as a parlor only if it was not needed as a bedroom. To the back of the building and up the steps is the communal Kitchen. This was also used by a "striker" as a bedroom.

Space was limited at western forts. A lower ranking officer could be displaced by a senior officer in the choice of rooms or house, even forcing families into a tent. This practice was called "Ranking Out". Wives hated the practice but had no say in it.

Continuing down Officers' Row you will go by the site of the second married officers' quarters.

## SURGEON'S QUARTERS (#18)

Every permanent military command had a physician. They were usually on contract with the government. The doctor treated patients and performed surgeries in his home. Long term care was provided in the Hospital (#6) by the Hospital Matron.

As you enter the building, surgeries were performed in the room on the right. Medicine was rudimentary with little to offer in effective treatments. Antiseptic procedure during surgery was just being developed. There were no vaccines or antibiotics. A severe injury to a limb often ended in amputation.

To the left is the Parlor, where the family's social life took place. Out the back door to the left is the Bedroom with a view to the Kitchen in the back. If the family had children, they would have slept in the kitchen.

A surgeon's pay was \$123 per month which did not usually attract top physicians. In fact, they were frequently incompetent. Some signed on for the adventure; others signed on to explore the West. Many were scientists who had contracts to collect new specimens to send back East to museums.